



FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Sixth Month, 2022

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Meeting for Worship

Friends are meeting for hybrid worship every 1st day at 10:30AM. Friends may meet physically outdoors (weather permitting) under the roof of the chickee hut on the Orange River in Buckingham.

Friends who prefer to meet via Zoom instead may do so. Each Friday an invitation to Zoom worship is sent to our entire e-mail list, identifying the hyperlink and meeting number. People may join early either physically or via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. for conversation and fellowship.

Midweek worship, in person only, is held at the chickee hut each Wednesday morning, at 10:30 a.m. For directions to the chickee hut, call 239-313-6201 or e-mail the e-mail address above for directions.

QUERIES & ADVICES *from Faith & Practice of Southeastern Yearly Meeting*

SEYM Queries & Advices

Second Section:

How do Friends care for one another?

6. Home, Family, & Relationships

Queries:

- *Do we make our home a place where love, peace, happiness, friendship, and refreshment of spirit are found and where the presence of God is experienced?*
- *Do all members of our family receive our affection and understanding?*
- *Do we take care that responsibilities outside the home do not encroach upon the time and loving attention our family needs?*
- *Do we acknowledge and support all relationships and families, whether conventional or not, that are based on love and commitment?*
- *Does our family set aside First Day and other times for worship, service, rest, and refreshment of spirit?*

Advices:

- *Live in love, and learn from one another. Try to live simply.*
 - *In our family life, encourage reliance upon God's guidance and help for each day's needs.*
 - *Remember the value of beauty in all its forms.*
 - *God's gifts are for all to enjoy; learn to use them wisely.*
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Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Minutes of 6th Month 12, 2021

The Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met on the 6th month 12th day in hybrid worship with ~17 Friends present. The Meeting opened with a period of silent centering.

Richard Frechette, Clerk, read Queries and Advices from SEYM's Faith & Practice on Home, Family & Relationships. Query: Do all members of our family receive our affection and understanding? Query: Does our family set aside First Day and other times for worship, service, rest, and refreshment of spirit? Advice: Remember the value of beauty in all its forms.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Paul Davis reported that our income is down because there are several checks being held in Florida waiting for him to return from Colorado. This should not be a problem in the future as Friend Sam DeOliveria has agreed to serve as check depositor, so things will not be held up when the Treasurer is traveling. The Treasurer will continue to monitor the expenses and prepare the financial reports.

In May, *Doctors Without Borders* cashed the check we sent months ago. We also made our once a year payment to Zoom for our Meeting accounts. Other expenses are our storage fee for our books and equipment, the cashing of April's last check to the Calusa Nature Center, and our final payments to the Baptist Church for the use of their internet at Peace Acres.

We received our \$6,605 apportionment for one year from SEYM. Half will be paid in July and half in January. (Their fiscal year runs from July-June; ours runs from January-December.) The apportionment is a suggestion and is about \$500 more than we budgeted for based on prior apportionments for the next half year.

General Funds	
Checking	5,152
Gen Fund Savings	40,412
Gen Fund Fr Fiduciary	28,464
Total General Fund	74,028
Meeting House Funds	
Savings	183,855
MH Funds Fr Fiduciary	13,245
Total Meeting House Funds	197,100
 FMMM Total Funds	 271,128

May 2022 Income vs Expenses	
May Income	\$ 220
May Expenses	\$ 2004*
* \$1000 Drs. without Borders, \$637 Zoom	

A Friend commented that when they write a check they never know where to send it since the Treasurer moves back and forth from Florida to Colorado. A Friend responded that Paul’s Fort Myers address is in the newsletter every month, and that we should send our checks there. Friend Sam will be periodically going to Paul’s house to pick up any checks and deposit them when Paul is not there.

Ministry & Counsel Committee Report

M&C discussed and agreed to begin a new tradition of recognizing the birth of a child to a member or attender of our Meeting with the gift of a simple, wooden child's rocking chair with the child's name on it. The first recipient will be Benjamin DeOliveria.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee Report

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee continues to be concerned about the horror of the war in Ukraine. However, the committee has become very small lately with only 3 or 4 Friends attending meetings. We have decided to take a break this summer, especially since Clerk Carolyn Stanley will be in Ecuador for the next few months. We will not be organizing further local discussions about non-violent action. We will be finishing our Racism Resource to include some children’s literature and start organizing for Peace Day in the fall.

Clerk Carolyn encourages all who are interested in more discussion about the War in Ukraine and the effectiveness of non-violence to explore the many national and world Quaker organizations that teach, promote, and practice non-violence and have been doing so for many years. They often have Zoom meetings like the one she recently attended organized by Quaker house called “Putting the Peace Testimony into Action.” As one person said on that Zoom call: “When a war breaks out is not the time to START working on peace. It must be a part of our daily lives. It must grow in our hearts, our minds, our schools, our communities and our world.”

Meetinghouse Committee Report

UUCFM’s board is scheduled to vote on June 14 on the approval of the land lease and, assuming approval, our Meetinghouse committee will contract for appropriate

architectural/engineering services locally. The Meetinghouse committee doesn't know the timing of the various steps involved but will keep the Meeting informed.

A Friend asked why we need a local architect, when the yurt will be coming from Washington State. Members of the committee replied that a local firm is needed for the second building, which will contain the bathrooms, storage, a small kitchen, and a covered porch, as well as for the details of the yurt, like the locally sourced windows and doors, the insulation, the cabinetry and bookshelves that would line the interior, and so on. We are hoping to contract with the same local architectural firm that designed the Randell Research Center building and other environmentally friendly buildings. The local architect is also needed to give their stamp of approval to the overall design before it goes to the County for their final approval.

Other Business

It always has been our tradition to have a welcoming party for new members of our Meeting, but because of COVID we haven't been able to do so for several years. We hope we can revive that tradition soon. Friend Nancy Howell added that she feels strongly that although we can't ignore the pandemic, we need to resume our occasions to gather over food soon. She will host the baby shower for Friend Pricilla on July 23rd at her house, which will be our first in-person celebration in a long time. Everyone is invited.

Our next Meeting for Business is tentatively scheduled for the second First Day in July.

We closed in silent worship.
Respectfully Submitted,
Helen Fox, Recording Clerk

March for Our Lives!

Various groups and individual citizens concerned about the prevalence of gun violence in our nation met at marches held all over the nation in expression of frustration and hopes to encourage much needed change of gun safety. The local "March for Our Lives" was held Saturday, June 11 at 11:00 a.m. at the Lee County Courthouse square. It was well-organized and included speakers, rules for marchers to follow and materials for marchers to use (tee shirts, signs, stickers and water.) Speakers were local citizens who had experienced gun violence personally in their lives. The stories were heart-wrenching, emotional and passionate. On the next page are a few photos of the event. Fort Myers Friends who attended included Carolyn Stanley, Jill Husson-Martinez, Deb White and Susan Oehls (who attended with family).



Acting on the Peace Testimony
by Carolyn Stanley

I attended a Zoom program organized by Quaker House on Wednesday, June 8, 2022. Quaker House is located near an army base in Fayetteville, North Carolina. The organization provides counseling to soldiers, vets and their families. Keeping to their Quaker faith of war is not the answer and love everyone their motto is “Yes to troops, No to war”. This Zoom meeting was attended by over 60 Friends and after an introduction was turned over for a discussion of how to **put the peace testimony into action**.

Some suggestions were:

- Email the Russian Embassy and tell them to Stop the Violence.
- Support a refugee family.
- Give humanitarian support - it may be impersonal but it matters
- Living in peace is the most natural state in which to flourish on a daily basis.

To that end:

- Teaching non-violence is needed - support it.
- Promote peace as humanitarian not political or religious.
- Promote the idea of peace in our communities. To that end support Peace Day or start a celebration of Peace Day in your community. Work to make it as important as any other holiday! Peace Day in Lee County will be held Sunday September 25 at the Wa-Ke-Hatchee Park 16760 Bass Road Fort Myers. Fort Myers Quakers will have a booth there.]

-Someone on the Zoom call recommended “Power of Goodness” section of the Friends Peace Teams organization:

<https://friendspeaceteams.org/power-of-goodness/>

Read the stories and attend one of their workshops.



Baby Shower - July 23, 2022

Friends are invited to come to the home of Nancy Howell, on July 23, at 1 pm, to attend a baby shower for our beloved "child of the meeting", Priscilla DeOliveira Goldey, who is expecting a baby girl in August. Both men and women are invited to attend. A light lunch will be served, with seating both inside and outside (weather permitting). Those planning to attend should RSVP by July 17 to allow for better planning, and will receive information on where to park, etc.

Priscilla tells us that she and Dylan are registered at Target, if you need guidance on gifts. The baby will need the usual clothing, blankets, towels, toys, books, etc. If you have questions about gifts, Priscilla will be glad to answer your questions, or consult the list at Target.

The shower will be at 105 Pinebrook Drive, off Daniels Parkway, just behind the Bell Tower shopping center. The condo is gated: the gate code is *30105. Phone Jeannette Botha or Nancy Howell to RSVP. Hope to see you there. "



Notes of the June 7, 2022 Peace and Social Concerns Committee Meeting of the Fort Myers Religious Society of Friends

Attendance: Christine McBride, Karin Gelotte, Carolyn Stanley (clerk) and our guest Melinda Wenner Bailey from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Prior to our Meeting Melinda sent these links which can be found on the PhYM website:

<https://www.pym.org/resources/religious-education/religious-education-racialjustice-curricula-and-resources/>

One of the links at the site above has a book list that starts on page 3:

http://www.pym.org/resources/wp-content/uploads/sites/106/2022/01/Racial-Justice-RE-Resources.MWB_2018.pdf

Our P&SC meeting began with Melinda sharing her thoughts about selecting books for children concerning racism and recommending some books. We followed up with some Q+A.

Books need to be both windows and mirrors - good to become aware of others and to read books in which you see yourself.

Books should include overcoming adversity, stories about facing racial injustice. It's also vital for a meeting library to have books where children of color are simply being. You'll find an excellent list of books where the lives of children of color are centered here: <http://www.embracerace.org/blog/childrens-books-featuring-kids-of-color-being-themselves-because-thats-enoughsimplybeing/>.

Book recommendations for children:

Our Skin: A 'First Conversations' book about race by Madison, Ralli and Roxas

Something Happened in Our Town by Celano, Collins, Hazzard
lesson based on a children's story about racial injustice, told from two perspectives, that of a Black family and a white family. Created by Friends at Madison Meeting in Northern Yearly Meeting

Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness by Higginbotham audio by Anatasia.
confronts the issue gently

Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You (for Kids) by Dr. Kendi and Jason Reynolds

This Book is Anti Racist. (grade 5 and up) by Jewell
good summer reading +/- or Sunday school - it includes an accompanying activity journal.

Books by Quaker Authors:

- John Lampen (The Worship Kit and The Peace Kit)
- Brinton Turkle's Obadiah series
- Byrd Baylor's books about listening and simplicity are lovely!

Other recommended resources:

The Quaker Religious Education Network

Quaker Religious Education Collaborative: <https://quakerrecolabortive.org/>

QuakerBooks of FGC is a great resource -- you may know their

Antiracism collection/section

Q+A/discussion

If our final resource is shared on the FMMM website, it would be good to have a point person.

If our resource is used to support a Sunday school class:

Read the story aloud. Follow up with:

“Where do you see the (Peace) Testimony (or any relevant ‘spice’: integrity, equality, etc.) in this story?”

[Carolyn’s suggestion for follow up: Through email (or Zoom or in person?)

Helen, Hugh, and Jill choose some suggested (or your own) resources to review so we can add a Children’s Section to our adult reading resource.]

Other P&SC agenda decisions:

- Minutes from last month were read and approved.
- We do not have anyone volunteering to pursue the War in Ukraine, Peace vs. Non-Violence discussions so we will put it on hold for now.
- Carolyn, Chris Mc. And Karin Gelotte will work over the summer to prepare for Peace Day at Wakahatchee Park September 25. Karin will search for tables, the Quaker Banner and brochure and leftover War is Not the Answer bumper stickers (if any). Chris will work on the canopy. Carolyn will work on the 6 yes/no questions for the Bean Poll. We also need a children’s activity.
- Gun Violence/protest/legislation
Some of us will attend the March against gun violence downtown Fort Myers at 11 AM on Saturday. Chris and Carolyn shared information about RawTools.org.
- We will not have a Zoom P&SC Committee meeting in July. We will meet again the first week of August. TBD, Aug. 2,3,or 4?

Meeting ended at 2:05 PM

Carolyn Stanley, clerk



Reader's/Writer's Corner

Most of us are avid readers, and some of us are writers, as well. Submit any essays, poetry or book reviews (400 words or less—about one newsletter page) that witness to the testimonies of Quaker life. Please email: debwhitenfl@gmail.com

(Poet's note: John T. Maris, the elder in the poem, was John Theron Maris. The middle name was passed on to his grandson, my father, who told me the story. The photo is the Prairie Vale Friends Church, ca 1959. It was made into an addition to a house in the neighboring town. Friend Theron White)

The Prairie Vale Friends



Are no more.
Sunup to sundown farmers
Lived in quiet joy, peace in war, charity in hard times --
They said they were called to feed the world.
Just a rusty square nail and a story remain.

John T. Maris had a watch fob with a glass bead.
Placed inside it was a tiny mustard seed.
That was his only geegaw.
They frowned on the frivolous, but
Great meaning adhered to it.
He permitted himself to wear it



He sat on the front bench, that ninety-year-old,
Sometimes fell into sleep in the meetings.
A uniquely Quakerly custom:
Folks stood, "testified," finished, then sat down,
And everyone said,
Amen!
In the heat of a summer day,
Some cows grazed near the opened windows.
One bawled to call her calf, and
Elder John woke up and said,
Amen!
Friends and their animals spoke the truth
To the meeting that now is no more.
Their kids scattered, sown over the world.

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USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FRIENDS

http://seymquakers.org	Southeastern Yearly Meeting
www.fcni.org	Friends Committee for National Legislation
www.fgcquaker.org	Friends General Conference
www.afsc.org	American Friends Service Committee
http://fwcc.world	Friends World Committee on Consultation
www.quakerspeak.com	QuakerSpeak: A Quaker YouTube Channel
www.quakerhouse.org	Quaker House, Fayetteville
www.quakervoluntaryservice.org	Quaker Voluntary Service
www.quno.org	Quaker United Nations

Contributions to the Meeting can be made payable to Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, and can be sent to:

Paul Davis, Treasurer
 5530 Harborage Drive
 Fort Myers, FL. 33908

MEETING CALENDAR

1 st Days (Sundays)	Meeting for Worship in a hybrid format: in person at Buckingham chickeehut or via Zoom An informal conversation time begins at 10:00 am	10:30 am
Each Wednesday	Meeting for Worship at Buckingham chickeehut. This is in person only.	10:30 a.m.
6/19/22	Father's Day and Juneteenth	
Sunday, 7/10/22	Meeting for worship with attention to Business following worship	12:30 p.m.